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ABSTRACT

A search is performed in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV for exotic particles decaying via WZ to fully leptonic final states with electrons, muons, and neutrinos. The data set corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 19.5 fb^{-1} . No significant excess is observed above the expected standard model background. Upper bounds at 95% confidence level are set on the production cross section of a W' boson as predicted by an extended gauge model, and on the $W'WZ$ coupling. The expected and observed mass limits for a W' boson, as predicted by this model, are 1.55 and 1.47 TeV, respectively. Stringent limits are also set in the context of low-scale technicolor models under a range of assumptions for the model parameters.

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1. Introduction

Many extensions of the standard model (SM) predict heavy charged gauge bosons, generically called W' , that decay into a WZ boson pair [1–6]. These extensions include models with extended gauge sectors, designed to achieve gauge coupling unification, and theories with extra spatial dimensions. There are also models in which the W' couplings to SM fermions are suppressed, giving rise to a fermiophobic W' with an enhanced coupling to W and Z bosons [7,8]. Further, searches for W' bosons that decay into WZ pairs are complementary to searches in other decay channels [9–19], many of which assume that the $W' \rightarrow WZ$ decay mode is suppressed. New WZ resonances are also predicted in technicolor models of dynamical electroweak symmetry breaking [20–22].

This Letter presents a search for exotic particles decaying to a WZ pair with $W \rightarrow \ell \nu$ and $Z \rightarrow \ell \ell$, where ℓ is either an electron (e) or a muon (μ), ν denotes a neutrino, and the W and Z bosons are allowed to decay to differently flavored leptons. The data were collected with the CMS experiment in proton–proton collisions at a center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV at the CERN LHC and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 19.5 fb^{-1} . Previous searches in this channel have been performed at the Tevatron [23] and at the LHC [24–26]. The results have typically been interpreted within the context of benchmark models such as an extended gauge model (EGM) [2] and low-scale technicolor (LSTC) mod-

els [21,22]. The search conducted by CMS at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV [25] excluded EGM W' bosons with masses below 1143 GeV and set stringent LSTC limits under a range of assumptions regarding model parameters. Complementary searches have also been conducted using the hadronic decays of the W and Z bosons [27–32].

The search at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV presented in this paper focuses on the fully leptonic channel, which is characterized by a pair of same-flavor, opposite-charge, isolated leptons with high transverse momentum (p_T) and an invariant mass consistent with that of the Z boson. A third, high- p_T , isolated, charged lepton is also present, along with missing transverse momentum associated with the neutrino. Background arises from other sources of three charged leptons, both genuine and misidentified. The primary background is the irreducible SM WZ production. Non-resonant events with no genuine Z boson in the final state, such as top quark pair ($t\bar{t}$), multijet, $W + \text{jet}$, $W\gamma + \text{jet}$, and $WW + \text{jet}$ production, are also considered. Only the first of these is expected to make a significant contribution. Also included are events with a genuine Z boson decaying leptonically and a third misidentified or nonisolated lepton, such as $Z + \text{jets}$ (including $Z + \text{heavy quarks}$) and $Z\gamma$ processes. The final background category includes events with a genuine Z boson decaying leptonically and a third genuine isolated lepton, dominated by $ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ decays in which one of the four leptons is undetected. Although irreducible, this contribution is not expected to be significant because of the small ZZ production cross section and dilepton decay branching fraction.

The search presented here follows the method applied in the previous analysis [25], whereby a counting experiment is used to compare the number of observed events to the number of

^{*} E-mail address: cms-publication-committee-chair@cern.ch.

expected signal and background events. However, the new analysis benefits from the increase in center-of-mass energy to 8 TeV and also from improvements in lepton identification, particularly at high p_T . An increase in sensitivity is achieved at high W' masses by using optimized isolation criteria that successfully take into account collimated leptons from highly boosted Z bosons. The larger center-of-mass energy alone increases the signal production cross section by roughly 45–70% for W' masses between 1000–1500 GeV, while the improved lepton isolation criteria contribute a 50% increase in signal efficiency over the same range. Additional improvements related to the optimization of selection criteria are also incorporated. Finally, as in the previous analysis [25], the results are interpreted within the context of W' bosons in extended gauge models and vector particles in LSTC models.

2. The CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the superconducting solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Muons are measured in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. Extensive forward calorimetry complements the coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors.

The ECAL energy resolution for electrons with transverse energy $E_T \approx 45$ GeV from $Z \rightarrow ee$ decays is better than 2% in the central region of the ECAL barrel ($|\eta| < 0.8$), and is between 2% and 5% elsewhere. For low-bremsstrahlung electrons, where 94% or more of their energy is contained within a 3×3 array of crystals, the energy resolution improves to 1.5% for $|\eta| < 0.8$ [33].

Muons are measured in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$, with detection planes made using three technologies: drift tubes, cathode strip chambers, and resistive-plate chambers. Matching muons to tracks measured in the silicon tracker results in a p_T resolution between 1 and 5%, for p_T values up to 1 TeV [34].

The particle-flow method [35,36] consists in reconstructing and identifying each single particle with an optimized combination of all subdetector information. The energy of photons is directly obtained from the ECAL measurement, corrected for zero-suppression effects. The energy of electrons is determined from a combination of the track momentum at the main interaction vertex, the corresponding ECAL cluster energy, and the energy sum of all bremsstrahlung photons attached to the track. The energy of muons is obtained from the corresponding track momentum.

A more detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found elsewhere [37].

3. Event simulation

The PYTHIA 6.426 event generator [38] and the CTEQ6L1 [39] parton distribution functions (PDFs) were used for producing the EGM W' and LSTC signal samples. For the detailed simulation of the W' samples, PYTHIA was used for parton showering and hadronization with the Z2* tune [40] for the underlying event simulation. Cross sections are scaled to next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) values calculated with FEWZ 2.0 [41], and range from 27.96 fb to 0.33 fb for W' masses between 1000 and 1500 GeV. Characteristic signal widths are between 100 and 168 GeV for the same mass range and are dominated by the detector resolution, since the natural widths vary from 33 to 54 GeV.

For the LSTC study we assume that the technihadrons ρ_{TC} and a_{TC} decay to WZ . Since these two states are expected to be nearly mass-degenerate [22], they would appear as a single feature in the WZ invariant mass spectrum, and we hereafter refer to them collectively as ρ_{TC} . Since we do not expect a difference in the kinematics between the W' and LSTC signals, we use the W' samples as the default for the analysis, with the cross sections for LSTC as given by PYTHIA. We consider the same relationship between the masses of the ρ_{TC} and π_{TC} technihadrons as used in Refs. [25] and [42], $M_{\pi_{TC}} = \frac{3}{4}M_{\rho_{TC}} - 25$ GeV, and also investigate the dependence of the results on the relative values of the ρ_{TC} and π_{TC} masses. The relationship between the masses significantly affects the ρ_{TC} branching fractions [42]. If $M_{\rho_{TC}} < 2M_{\pi_{TC}}$, the decay $\rho_{TC} \rightarrow W\pi_{TC}$ dominates, such that the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(\rho_{TC} \rightarrow WZ) < 10\%$. However, if the $\rho_{TC} \rightarrow W\pi_{TC}$ decay is kinematically inaccessible, $\mathcal{B}(\rho_{TC} \rightarrow WZ)$ approaches 100%. Following Ref. [42] we also assume that the LSTC parameter $\sin \chi$ is equal to 1/3. Changes in this parameter affect the branching fractions for decay into WZ and $W\pi_{TC}$.

The MADGRAPH 5.1 [43] and POWHEG 1.1 [44–47] generators are interfaced to PYTHIA for parton showering, hadronization, and simulation of the underlying event. The SM WZ process, which is the dominant irreducible background, was generated with MADGRAPH. The ZZ process, which contributes when one of the leptons is either outside the detector acceptance or misreconstructed, was generated using POWHEG. The instrumental backgrounds were produced using MADGRAPH and include Z +jets, $t\bar{t}$, $Z\gamma$, WW +jets, and W +jets. The background contribution from QCD multijet events and from $W\gamma$ events was also studied in the simulation and found to be negligible. Next-to-leading order (NLO) cross sections are used with the exception of the W +jets process, where the NNLO cross section is used. The W' signal and SM processes used to estimate background were modeled using a full GEANT4 [48] simulation of the CMS detector.

For all the simulated samples, the additional proton–proton interactions in each beam crossing (pileup) were modeled by superimposing minimum bias interactions (obtained using PYTHIA with the Z2* tune) onto simulated events, with the multiplicity distribution matching the one observed in data.

4. Object reconstruction and event selection

The $WZ \rightarrow 3\ell\nu$ decay is characterized by a pair of same-flavor, opposite-charge, high- p_T isolated leptons with an invariant mass consistent with a Z boson, a third, high- p_T isolated lepton, and a significant amount of missing transverse momentum associated with the escaping neutrino. The analysis, therefore, relies on the reconstruction of three types of objects: electrons, muons, and E_T^{miss} . The magnitude of the negative vector sum of transverse momenta of all reconstructed candidates is used to calculate E_T^{miss} . The events are reconstructed using a particle-flow approach [35,36] and the details of the selection are provided below.

Candidate events are required to have at least three reconstructed leptons (e, μ) within the chosen detector acceptance of $|\eta| < 2.5$ (2.4) for electrons (muons). The events are selected online using a double-electron or double-muon trigger for final states with the Z boson decaying into electrons or muons, respectively.

The double-electron trigger requires two clusters in the ECAL with $E_T > 33$ GeV. The lateral spread in η of the energy deposits comprising the cluster is required to be compatible with that of an electron. The trigger also requires that the sum of the energy detected in the HCAL in a cone of $\Delta R < 0.14$, where $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2}$, centered on the cluster, be no more than 15% (10%) of the cluster energy in the barrel (endcap) region of the

ECAL. Finally, the clusters are matched in η and ϕ to a track that includes hits in the pixel detector.

The double-muon trigger requires a *global* muon with $p_T > 22$ GeV and a *tracker* muon with $p_T > 8$ GeV. The global muon is reconstructed using an *outside-in* approach whereby each muon candidate in the muon system is matched to a track reconstructed in the tracker and a global fit combining tracker and muon hits is performed [34]. The tracker muon is reconstructed using an *inside-out* approach in which all tracks that are considered as possible muon candidates are extrapolated out to the muon system. If at least one muon segment matches the extrapolated track, it qualifies as a tracker muon. The trigger requirements described above have been changed from those in Ref. [25] wherein two global muons were required to pass the online selection. The new requirements improve sensitivity for collimated muons from highly boosted Z bosons.

Simulated events are weighted according to trigger efficiencies measured, in both observed and simulated data, using the “tag-and-probe” technique [49] with a large $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ sample. In the electron channel, we apply a parametrization based on the turn-on curve measured with observed electrons and find trigger efficiencies to be above 99%. Muon trigger efficiencies above the turn-on are typically measured to be above 90% in observed events. Scale factors are also applied to the simulated samples to account for differences between the observed and simulated trigger efficiencies. These are approximately unity for both the electron and muon channels.

Candidates for leptons from the W and Z boson decays are also required to pass a series of identification and isolation criteria designed to reduce background from jets that are misidentified as leptons. Electron candidates are reconstructed from a collection of electromagnetic clusters with matched tracks. The electron momentum is obtained from a fit to the electron track using a Gaussian-sum filter algorithm [50] along its trajectory taking into account the possible emission of bremsstrahlung photons in the silicon tracker. We require $p_T > 35$ (20) GeV for the electrons from the Z (W) boson decay. We also require $|\eta| < 2.5$ and exclude the barrel and endcap transition region ($1.444 < |\eta| < 1.566$) as electron reconstruction in this region is not optimal. In comparison with the requirements imposed on electrons from the W boson decays, a looser set of identification requirements, primarily based on the spatial matching between the track and the electromagnetic cluster, is imposed for the electrons from the Z boson decays. Electron candidates are also required to be isolated with particle-flow-based relative isolation, I_{rel} , less than 0.15, where I_{rel} is defined as the sum of the transverse momenta of all neutral and charged reconstructed particle-flow candidates inside a cone of $\Delta R < 0.3$ around the electron in η - ϕ space divided by the p_T of the electron. The I_{rel} computation includes an event-by-event correction applied to account for the effect of pileup [51]. Finally, if an electromagnetic cluster associated with a photon from internal bremsstrahlung in W and Z boson decays happens to be closely aligned with a muon track, it may be misreconstructed as an electron. In order to remove such instances of misreconstruction, electrons are rejected if they are within a cone of $\Delta R < 0.01$ around a muon. Observed-to-simulated scale factors for these identification and isolation requirements, measured using tag-and-probe and parametrized as a function of electron p_T and $|\eta|$, are applied as corrections to the simulated samples.

Global muon candidates are reconstructed using information from both the silicon tracker and the muon system. Candidates are required to have at least one muon chamber hit that is included in the global muon track fit and at least two matched segments in the muon system. We require muons with $|\eta| < 2.4$ and leading (sub-leading) muon $p_T > 25$ (10) GeV for the muons from the Z decay

and $p_T > 20$ GeV for the muons from the W decay. We also require $\delta p_T/p_T < 0.3$ for the track used for the momentum determination, where δp_T is the uncertainty on the measured transverse momentum, and we eliminate cosmic ray background by requiring that the transverse impact parameter of the muon with respect to the primary vertex position be less than 2 mm. Particle-flow-based relative isolation, with pileup corrections applied [52], is defined using a cone of size $\Delta R < 0.4$ around the primary muon and is required to be less than 0.12. The above identification criteria are modified for muons coming from the Z boson decay: one of the muons is allowed to be a tracker muon only and the requirement on the number of muon chamber hits is removed. Additionally, the isolation variable for each muon is modified to remove the contribution of the other muon. These modifications improve the signal efficiency and hence the overall sensitivity for high-mass W' bosons. Simulated samples are corrected using observed-to-simulated scale factors that are parametrized as a function of muon $|\eta|$.

Opposite-sign, same-flavor lepton pairs with invariant mass between 71 and 111 GeV, consistent with the Z boson mass, are used to reconstruct Z boson candidates. In the case of more than one Z boson candidate, where the two candidates share a lepton, the candidate with the mass closest to the nominal Z boson mass [7] is selected. Events with two distinct Z boson candidates, where the candidates do not share a lepton, are rejected in order to suppress the ZZ background. The charge misidentification rate for the leptons considered in the analysis is very small and thus neglected.

A candidate for the charged lepton from the decay of a W boson, in the following referred to as a W lepton, is then selected out of the remaining leptons. When several candidates are found, the one with the highest p_T is selected. Neutrinos from the leptonic W boson decays escape from the detector without registering a signal and result in significant E_T^{miss} in the event. In order to increase the purity of the selection of W boson decays, the E_T^{miss} in the event is required to be larger than 30 GeV. This requirement discriminates against both high- p_T jets misidentified as leptons and photon conversions, where the source of the misidentified jet or photon can come from Z + jets or $Z\gamma$ events, respectively.

In order to suppress events where final-state radiation produces additional leptons (via photon conversion) that are identified as the W lepton, we apply two additional requirements on the event after the W lepton selection. First, events with the trilepton invariant mass $m_{3\ell} < 120$ GeV are rejected to remove events where $m_{3\ell}$ is close to the Z boson mass. Second, events where the ΔR between either lepton from the Z boson decay and the W lepton is less than 0.3 are rejected. This removes cases where the W lepton candidate comes from a converted photon and is unlikely to occur in the boosted topology of a massive W' boson decay.

After the W and Z candidate selection, the two bosons are combined into a WZ candidate. The invariant mass of this candidate cannot be determined uniquely since the longitudinal momentum of the neutrino is unknown. We follow the procedure used in the previous CMS analysis [25] and assume the W boson to have its nominal mass, thereby constraining the value of the neutrino longitudinal momentum to one of the two solutions of a quadratic equation. Detector resolution effects can result in a reconstructed transverse mass larger than the invariant W boson mass, M_W , leading to complex solutions for the neutrino longitudinal momentum. In these cases, a real solution is recovered by setting M_W equal to the measured transverse mass. This results in two identical solutions for the neutrino longitudinal momentum. In simulated events with two distinct, real solutions, the smaller-magnitude solution was found to be correct in approximately 70% of the cases, and this solution was therefore chosen for all such events. Fig. 1 (top) shows the WZ invariant mass distributions,

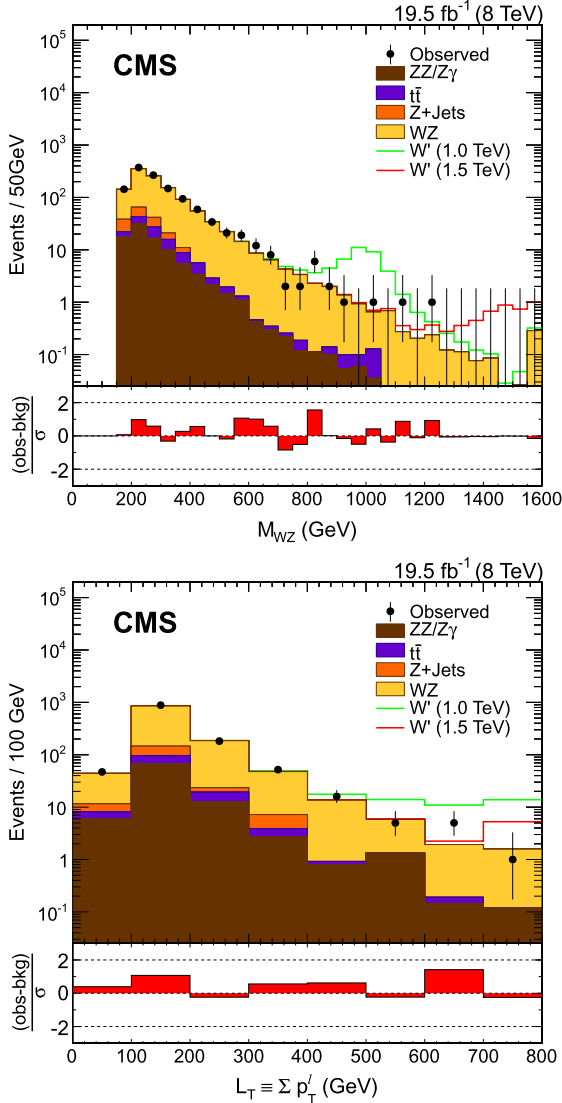


Fig. 1. The WZ invariant mass (top) and L_T (bottom) distributions for the background, signal, and observed events after the WZ candidate selection. The last bin includes overflow events. The $(\text{obs} - \text{bkg})/\sigma$ in the lower panel is defined as the difference between the number of observed events and the number of expected background events divided by the total statistical uncertainty.

after the WZ-candidate selection, for signal, background, and observed events. At this point, the irreducible WZ process dominates the background contribution, making up $\sim 85\%$ of the total number of expected background events.

In order to further suppress SM background events, we apply two additional selection requirements. The first is a requirement on L_T , the scalar sum of the charged leptons' transverse momenta, shown in Fig. 1 (bottom). The second is a requirement on the mass of the WZ system. The thresholds for these selection criteria are varied simultaneously at 100 GeV mass spacing for the WZ invariant mass and optimized for the best expected limit on the W' production. These optimal values are then plotted as a function of the WZ mass and an analytic function is fit to the resulting distribution. For the mass-window requirement, two regimes of linear behavior are observed: for masses less than 1200 GeV, a narrow mass window is optimal in order to reject as much background as possible. Above 1200 GeV, the background ceases to contribute significantly and it is better to have a large mass window. The L_T requirement exhibits a linear relationship: as the

mass increases, it is optimal to require a larger L_T , until around 1000 GeV, at which point having L_T greater than 500 GeV is sufficient. These mass windows and L_T requirements are summarized in Table 1.

5. Systematic uncertainties

Systematic uncertainties affecting the analysis can be grouped into four categories. In the first group we include uncertainties that are determined from simulation. These include uncertainties in the lepton and E_T^{miss} energy scales and resolution, as well as uncertainties in the PDFs. Following the recommendations of the PDF4LHC group [53,54], PDF and α_s variations of the MSTW2008 [55], CT10 [56], and NNPDF2.0 [57] PDF sets are taken into account and their impact on the WZ cross section estimated. Signal PDF uncertainties are taken into account only to derive uncertainty bands around the signal cross sections, as shown in Fig. 2, and do not impact the central limit. An uncertainty associated with the simulation of pileup is also taken into account.

The second group includes the systematic uncertainties affecting the observed-to-simulated scale factors for the efficiencies of the trigger, reconstruction, and identification requirements. These efficiencies are derived from tag-and-probe studies, and the uncertainty in the ratio of the efficiencies is typically taken as the systematic uncertainty. For the $Z \rightarrow ee$ channel, we assign a 2% uncertainty related to the trigger scale factors, another 2% to account for the difference between the observed and simulated reconstruction efficiencies, and an additional 1% uncertainty related to the electron identification and isolation scale factors. For the $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ channel, we assign a 5% uncertainty related to the trigger and another 2% uncertainty due to the differences in the observed and simulated efficiencies of muon reconstruction. An additional 3% uncertainty is assigned to the muon identification and isolation scale factors to cover potential differences related to the boosted topology of the signal.

The third category comprises uncertainties in the background yield. These are dominated by the theoretical uncertainties associated with the WZ background. We consider contributions coming from uncertainties related to the choice of PDF (described above), renormalization and factorization scales, and the SM WZ production modeling in MADGRAPH. Scale uncertainties were determined by studying the variation of the cross section in the same phase space of the analysis by varying the renormalization and factorization scales by a factor of two upwards and downwards with respect to their nominal values. The largest observed variation is taken as a systematic uncertainty. This procedure results in uncertainties of 5% for WZ masses up to 500 GeV and up to 15% from 600 GeV to 2 TeV. As the MADGRAPH sample used for simulating the WZ background contains explicit production of additional jets at matrix-element level, it provides a reasonable description of the process. The prediction is thus only rescaled with a global factor to the total NLO cross section computed with MCFM 6.6 [58]. To estimate uncertainties related to remaining modeling differences between the spectra predicted by MADGRAPH and true NLO predictions, we studied the ratio of the WZ cross section in the phase space defined by the analysis selection criteria (for each mass point) to the inclusive WZ cross section. We compared this ratio between MADGRAPH and MCFM and found differences of the order of 5% for WZ masses up to 1 TeV, and of the order of 30% between 1 and 2 TeV. These differences are taken as additional systematic uncertainties in the SM WZ background. For other background processes, the cross sections are varied by amounts estimated for the phase space relevant for this analysis as follows: ZZ and Z + jets by 30%, $t\bar{t}$ by 15%, and $Z\gamma$ by 50%.

Table 1

Minimum L_T requirements and search windows for each EGM W' mass point along with the number of expected background events (N_{bkg}), observed events (N_{obs}), expected W' signal events (N_{sig}), and the product of the signal efficiency and acceptance ($\epsilon_{\text{sig}} \times \text{Acc.}$). The indicated uncertainties are statistical only.

W' mass (GeV)	L_T (GeV)	M_{WZ} window (GeV)	N_{bkg}	N_{obs}	N_{sig}	$\epsilon_{\text{sig}} \times \text{Acc.} (\%)$
170	110	163–177	9.0 ± 0.3	8	18 ± 1	1.33 ± 0.09
180	115	172–188	38 ± 2	49	140 ± 7	1.97 ± 0.09
190	120	181–199	62 ± 1	76	371 ± 14	2.6 ± 0.1
200	125	190–210	81 ± 4	86	610 ± 20	3.2 ± 0.1
210	130	199–221	86 ± 3	101	786 ± 23	3.9 ± 0.1
220	135	208–232	91 ± 3	84	896 ± 24	4.5 ± 0.1
230	140	217–243	92 ± 4	80	977 ± 25	5.2 ± 0.1
240	145	226–254	91 ± 4	84	1011 ± 24	5.8 ± 0.1
250	150	235–265	82 ± 1	85	1021 ± 23	6.4 ± 0.1
275	162	258–292	73 ± 3	85	970 ± 20	8.0 ± 0.2
300	175	280–320	60 ± 1	74	858 ± 16	9.6 ± 0.2
325	188	302–348	56 ± 3	53	792 ± 13	11.8 ± 0.2
350	200	325–375	48 ± 3	37	699 ± 10	13.9 ± 0.2
400	225	370–430	32 ± 1	40	542 ± 7	18.1 ± 0.2
450	250	415–485	23.1 ± 0.8	26	399 ± 5	21.5 ± 0.2
500	275	460–540	16.6 ± 0.5	13	297 ± 3	24.8 ± 0.3
550	300	505–595	13.2 ± 0.6	14	220 ± 2	27.6 ± 0.3
600	325	550–650	10.0 ± 0.5	10	167 ± 2	30.4 ± 0.3
700	375	640–760	4.7 ± 0.2	4	96.9 ± 0.8	34.3 ± 0.3
800	425	730–870	2.8 ± 0.2	5	56.5 ± 0.5	36.5 ± 0.3
900	475	820–980	2.1 ± 0.2	4	35.0 ± 0.3	38.6 ± 0.3
1000	500	910–1090	1.4 ± 0.1	0	23.7 ± 0.2	43.3 ± 0.3
1100	500	1000–1200	0.8 ± 0.1	0	15.9 ± 0.1	46.8 ± 0.3
1200	500	1080–1320	0.58 ± 0.08	1	10.77 ± 0.07	49.1 ± 0.3
1300	500	1108–1492	0.56 ± 0.08	1	8.20 ± 0.04	56.1 ± 0.3
1400	500	1135–1665	0.60 ± 0.08	1	5.64 ± 0.03	57.3 ± 0.3
1500	500	1162–1838	0.57 ± 0.08	1	3.76 ± 0.02	57.5 ± 0.3
1600	500	1190–2010	0.56 ± 0.08	1	2.56 ± 0.01	57.7 ± 0.3
1700	500	1218–2182	0.50 ± 0.08	1	1.782 ± 0.009	57.6 ± 0.3
1800	500	1245–2355	0.44 ± 0.07	1	1.255 ± 0.007	58.0 ± 0.3
1900	500	1272–2528	0.39 ± 0.07	0	0.844 ± 0.005	55.0 ± 0.3
2000	500	1300–2700	0.36 ± 0.07	0	0.595 ± 0.003	54.7 ± 0.3

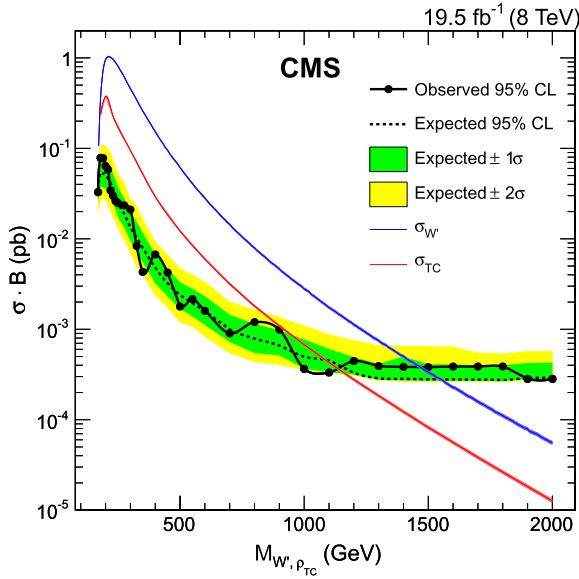


Fig. 2. Limits at 95% CL on $\sigma \times \mathcal{B}(W' \rightarrow 3\ell\nu)$ as a function of the mass of the EGM W' (blue) and ρ_{TC} (red), along with the 1σ and 2σ combined statistical and systematic uncertainties indicated by the green (dark) and yellow (light) bands, respectively. The theoretical cross sections include a mass-dependent NNLO K-factor. The thickness of the theory lines represents the PDF uncertainty associated with the signal cross sections. The predicted cross sections for ρ_{TC} assume that $M_{\rho_{TC}} = \frac{3}{4}M_{W'} - 25$ GeV and that the LSTC parameter $\sin\chi = 1/3$. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Finally, an additional uncertainty of 2.6% due to the measurement of the integrated luminosity is included [59]. Table 2 presents a summary of the above systematic uncertainties.

Table 2

Summary of systematic uncertainties. Values are given for the impact on signal and background event yields. When the value of the uncertainty differs between the different decay modes of the W and Z bosons and/or between different W' masses considered, a range is quoted in order to provide an idea of the magnitude of the uncertainty, i.e. its impact.

Systematic uncertainty	Signal impact	Background impact
E_T^{miss} resolution & scale	1–3%	1–23%
Muon p_T resolution	1–3%	0.5–5%
Muon p_T scale	1–2%	1–22%
Electron energy scale & resolution	0.5–2%	1.5–12%
Pileup	0.1–0.8%	0.5–5%
Electron trigger efficiency	2%	2%
Electron reconstruction efficiency	2%	2%
Electron ID & isolation efficiencies	1%	1%
Muon trigger efficiency	5%	5%
Muon reconstruction efficiency	2%	2%
Muon ID & isolation efficiencies	3%	3%
Z + jets	–	30%
$t\bar{t}$	–	15%
$Z\gamma$	–	50%
ZZ	–	30%
WZ PDF	–	5–10%
WZ scale	–	5–15%
WZ MADGRAPH modeling	–	5–30%
Luminosity	2.6%	2.6%

6. Results

As shown in Fig. 1, the data are compatible with the expected SM background and no significant excess is observed. Exclusion limits on the production cross section $\sigma(\text{pp} \rightarrow W'/\rho_{TC} \rightarrow WZ) \times \mathcal{B}(WZ \rightarrow 3\ell\nu)$ are determined using a counting experiment and comparing the number of observed events to the number of

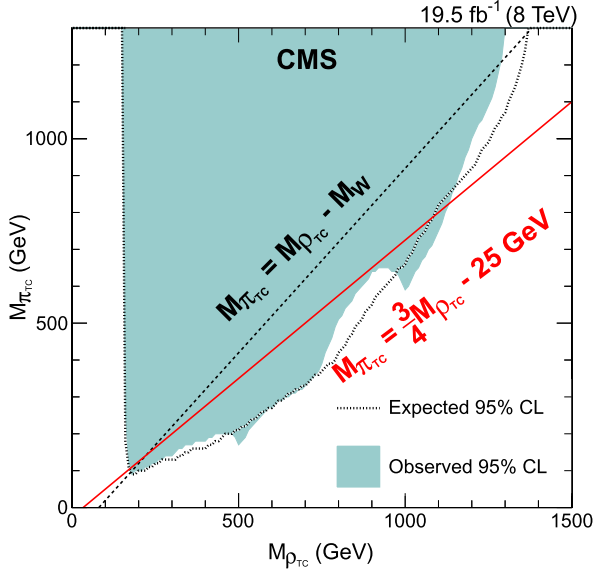


Fig. 3. Two-dimensional exclusion limit at 95% CL for the LSTC model as a function of the ρ_{TC} and π_{TC} masses.

expected signal and background events. The limits are calculated at 95% confidence level (CL) by employing the RooStats [60] implementation of Bayesian statistics [7] and assuming a flat prior for the signal production cross section. Systematic uncertainties, other than signal PDF uncertainties, are represented by nuisance parameters. The results for the number of observed and expected background and signal events at different W' masses, along with the efficiency times acceptance, are given in Table 1.

The expected (observed) lower limit on the mass of the W' boson is 1.55 (1.47) TeV in the EGM. For LSTC, with the chosen parameters $M_{\pi_{TC}} = \frac{3}{4} M_{\rho_{TC}} - 25$ GeV, the expected and observed ρ_{TC} mass limits are 1.09 and 1.14 TeV, respectively. For each of the above cases the lower bound on the exclusion limit is 0.17 TeV. Fig. 2 shows these limits as a function of the mass of the EGM W' boson and the ρ_{TC} particle along with the combined statistical and systematic uncertainties. Fig. 3 shows the LSTC cross section limits in a two-dimensional plane as a function of the ρ_{TC} and π_{TC} masses.

The W' production cross section and the branching fraction $\mathcal{B}(W' \rightarrow WZ)$ are affected by the strength of the coupling between the W' boson and WZ , which we refer to as $g_{W'WZ}$. The EGM assumes that $g_{W'WZ} = g_{WWZ} \times M_W M_Z / M_{W'}^2$, where g_{WWZ} is the SM WWZ coupling and $M_{W'}$, M_Z , and M_W are the masses of the W' , Z , and W particles, respectively. If the coupling between the W' boson and WZ happens to be stronger than that predicted by the EGM, the observed and expected limits will be more stringent. This is illustrated in Fig. 4, where an upper limit at 95% CL on the $W'WZ$ coupling is given as a function of the mass of the W' resonance.

7. Summary

A search has been performed in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV for new particles decaying via WZ to fully leptonic final states with electrons, muons, and neutrinos. The data set corresponds to an integrated luminosity of 19.5 fb^{-1} . No significant excess is found in the mass distribution of the WZ candidates compared to the background expectation from standard model processes. The results are interpreted in the context of different theoretical models and stringent lower bounds are set at 95% con-

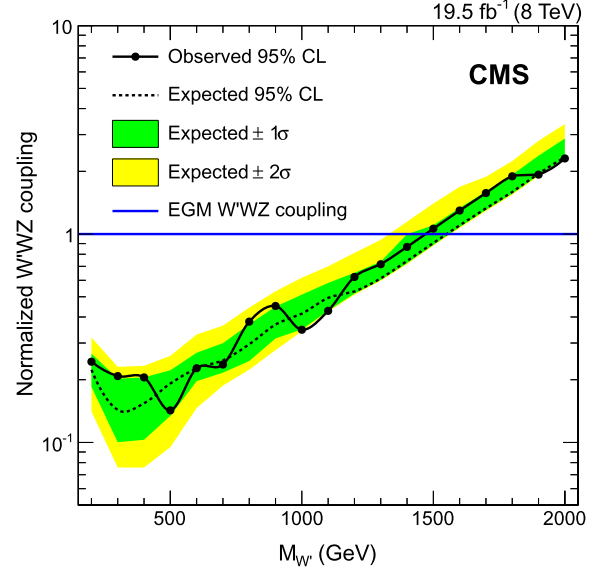


Fig. 4. The 95% CL upper limit on the strength of $W'WZ$ coupling normalized to the EGM prediction as a function of the W' mass. The 1σ and 2σ combined statistical and systematic uncertainties are indicated by the green (dark) and yellow (light) bands, respectively. PDF uncertainties on the theoretical cross section are not included.

fidence level on the masses of hypothetical particles decaying via WZ to the fully leptonic final state. Assuming an extended gauge model, an expected (observed) exclusion limit of 1.55 (1.47) TeV on the mass of the W' boson is set. Low-scale technicolor ρ_{TC} hadrons with masses below 1.14 TeV are also excluded assuming $M_{\pi_{TC}} = \frac{3}{4} M_{\rho_{TC}} - 25$ GeV. These exclusion limits represent a large improvement over previously published results obtained in proton–proton collisions with $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV.

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CMS Collaboration

V. Khachatryan, A.M. Sirunyan, A. Tumasyan

Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia

W. Adam, T. Bergauer, M. Dragicevic, J. Erö, C. Fabjan¹, M. Friedl, R. Frühwirth¹, V.M. Ghete, C. Hartl, N. Hörmann, J. Hrubec, M. Jeitler¹, W. Kiesenhofer, V. Knünz, M. Krammer¹, I. Krätschmer, D. Liko, I. Mikulec, D. Rabady², B. Rahbaran, H. Rohringer, R. Schöfbeck, J. Strauss, A. Taurok, W. Treberer-Treberspurg, W. Waltenberger, C.-E. Wulz¹

Institut für Hochenergiephysik der OeAW, Wien, Austria

V. Mossolov, N. Shumeiko, J. Suarez Gonzalez

National Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Belarus

S. Alderweireldt, M. Bansal, S. Bansal, T. Cornelis, E.A. De Wolf, X. Janssen, A. Knutsson, S. Luyckx, S. Ochesanu, B. Roland, R. Rougny, M. Van De Klundert, H. Van Haevermaet, P. Van Mechelen, N. Van Remortel, A. Van Spilbeeck

Universiteit Antwerpen, Antwerpen, Belgium

F. Blekman, S. Blyweert, J. D'Hondt, N. Daci, N. Heracleous, J. Keaveney, T.J. Kim, S. Lowette, M. Maes, A. Olbrechts, Q. Python, D. Strom, S. Tavernier, W. Van Doninck, P. Van Mulders, G.P. Van Onsem, I. Villella

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium

C. Caillol, B. Clerbaux, G. De Lentdecker, D. Dobur, L. Favart, A.P.R. Gay, A. Grebenyuk, A. Léonard, A. Mohammadi, L. Perniè², T. Reis, T. Seva, L. Thomas, C. Vander Velde, P. Vanlaer, J. Wang

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium

V. Adler, K. Beernaert, L. Benucci, A. Cimmino, S. Costantini, S. Crucy, S. Dildick, A. Fagot, G. Garcia, J. McCartin, A.A. Ocampo Rios, D. Ryckbosch, S. Salva Diblen, M. Sigamani, N. Strobbe, F. Thyssen, M. Tytgat, E. Yazgan, N. Zaganidis

Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

S. Basegmez, C. Beluffi³, G. Bruno, R. Castello, A. Caudron, L. Ceard, G.G. Da Silva, C. Delaere, T. du Pree, D. Favart, L. Forthomme, A. Giammanco⁴, J. Hollar, P. Jez, M. Komm, V. Lemaitre, J. Liao, C. Nuttons, D. Pagano, L. Perrini, A. Pin, K. Piotrkowski, A. Popov⁵, L. Quertenmont, M. Selvaggi, M. Vidal Marono, J.M. Vizan Garcia

Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

N. Beliy, T. Caebergs, E. Daubie, G.H. Hammad

Université de Mons, Mons, Belgium

W.L. Aldá Júnior, G.A. Alves, M. Correa Martins Junior, T. Dos Reis Martins, M.E. Pol

Centro Brasileiro de Pesquisas Físicas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

W. Carvalho, J. Chinellato⁶, A. Custódio, E.M. Da Costa, D. De Jesus Damiao, C. De Oliveira Martins, S. Fonseca De Souza, H. Malbouisson, D. Matos Figueiredo, L. Mundim, H. Nogima, W.L. Prado Da Silva, J. Santaolalla, A. Santoro, A. Sznajder, E.J. Tonelli Manganote⁶, A. Vilela Pereira

Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

C.A. Bernardes^b, F.A. Dias^{a,7}, T.R. Fernandez Perez Tomei^a, E.M. Gregores^b, P.G. Mercadante^b, S.F. Novaes^a, Sandra S. Padula^a

^a *Universidade Estadual Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil*

^b *Universidade Federal do ABC, São Paulo, Brazil*

A. Aleksandrov, V. Genchev², P. Iaydjiev, A. Marinov, S. Piperov, M. Rodozov, G. Sultanov, M. Vutova

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy, Sofia, Bulgaria

A. Dimitrov, I. Glushkov, R. Hadjiiska, V. Kozhuharov, L. Litov, B. Pavlov, P. Petkov

University of Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

J.G. Bian, G.M. Chen, H.S. Chen, M. Chen, R. Du, C.H. Jiang, D. Liang, S. Liang, R. Plestina⁸, J. Tao, X. Wang, Z. Wang

Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing, China

C. Asawatangtrakuldee, Y. Ban, Y. Guo, Q. Li, W. Li, S. Liu, Y. Mao, S.J. Qian, D. Wang, L. Zhang, W. Zou

State Key Laboratory of Nuclear Physics and Technology, Peking University, Beijing, China

C. Avila, L.F. Chaparro Sierra, C. Florez, J.P. Gomez, B. Gomez Moreno, J.C. Sanabria

Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia

N. Godinovic, D. Lelas, D. Polic, I. Puljak

Technical University of Split, Split, Croatia

Z. Antunovic, M. Kovac

University of Split, Split, Croatia

V. Brigljevic, K. Kadija, J. Luetic, D. Mekterovic, L. Sudic

Institute Rudjer Boskovic, Zagreb, Croatia

A. Attikis, G. Mavromanolakis, J. Mousa, C. Nicolaou, F. Ptochos, P.A. Razis

University of Cyprus, Nicosia, Cyprus

M. Bodlak, M. Finger, M. Finger Jr.⁹

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Y. Assran¹⁰, S. Elgammal¹¹, M.A. Mahmoud¹², A. Radi^{11,13}

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Egyptian Network of High Energy Physics, Cairo, Egypt

M. Kadastik, M. Murumaa, M. Raidal, A. Tiko

National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia

P. Eerola, G. Fedi, M. Voutilainen

Department of Physics, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

J. Härkönen, V. Karimäki, R. Kinnunen, M.J. Kortelainen, T. Lampén, K. Lassila-Perini, S. Lehti, T. Lindén, P. Luukka, T. Mäenpää, T. Peltola, E. Tuominen, J. Tuominiemi, E. Tuovinen, L. Wendland

Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland

T. Tuuva

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Lappeenranta, Finland

M. Besancon, F. Couderc, M. Dejardin, D. Denegri, B. Fabbro, J.L. Faure, C. Favaro, F. Ferri, S. Ganjour, A. Givernaud, P. Gras, G. Hamel de Monchenault, P. Jarry, E. Locci, J. Malcles, J. Rander, A. Rosowsky, M. Titov

DSM/IRFU, CEA/Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

S. Baffioni, F. Beaudette, P. Busson, C. Charlot, T. Dahms, M. Dalchenko, L. Dobrzynski, N. Filipovic, A. Florent, R. Granier de Cassagnac, L. Mastrolorenzo, P. Miné, C. Mironov, I.N. Naranjo, M. Nguyen, C. Ochando, P. Paganini, R. Salerno, J.B. Sauvan, Y. Sirois, C. Veelken, Y. Yilmaz, A. Zabi

Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3–CNRS, Palaiseau, France

J.-L. Agram¹⁴, J. Andrea, A. Aubin, D. Bloch, J.-M. Brom, E.C. Chabert, C. Collard, E. Conte¹⁴, J.-C. Fontaine¹⁴, D. Gelé, U. Goerlach, C. Goetzmann, A.-C. Le Bihan, P. Van Hove

Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Université de Strasbourg, Université de Haute Alsace Mulhouse, CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France

S. Gadrat

Centre de Calcul de l'Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules, CNRS/IN2P3, Villeurbanne, France

S. Beauceron, N. Beaupere, G. Boudoul², S. Brochet, C.A. Carrillo Montoya, J. Chasserat, R. Chierici, D. Contardo², P. Depasse, H. El Mamouni, J. Fan, J. Fay, S. Gascon, M. Gouzevitch, B. Ille, T. Kurca, M. Lethuillier, L. Mirabito, S. Perries, J.D. Ruiz Alvarez, D. Sabes, L. Sgandurra, V. Sordini, M. Vander Donckt, P. Verdier, S. Viret, H. Xiao

Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS–IN2P3, Institut de Physique Nucléaire de Lyon, Villeurbanne, France

Z. Tsamalaidze⁹

Institute of High Energy Physics and Informatization, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

C. Autermann, S. Beranek, M. Bontenackels, M. Edelhoff, L. Feld, O. Hindrichs, K. Klein, A. Ostapchuk, A. Perieanu, F. Raupach, J. Sammet, S. Schael, H. Weber, B. Wittmer, V. Zhukov⁵

RWTH Aachen University, I. Physikalisches Institut, Aachen, Germany

M. Ata, E. Dietz-Laursonn, D. Duchardt, M. Erdmann, R. Fischer, A. Güth, T. Hebbeker, C. Heidemann, K. Hoepfner, D. Klingebiel, S. Knutzen, P. Kreuzer, M. Merschmeyer, A. Meyer, M. Olschewski, K. Padeken, P. Papacz, H. Reithler, S.A. Schmitz, L. Sonnenschein, D. Teyssier, S. Thüer, M. Weber

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen, Germany

V. Cherepanov, Y. Erdogan, G. Flügge, H. Geenen, M. Geisler, W. Haj Ahmad, F. Hoehle, B. Kargoll, T. Kress, Y. Kuessel, J. Lingemann², A. Nowack, I.M. Nugent, L. Perchalla, O. Pooth, A. Stahl

RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut B, Aachen, Germany

I. Asin, N. Bartosik, J. Behr, W. Behrenhoff, U. Behrens, A.J. Bell, M. Bergholz¹⁵, A. Bethani, K. Borras, A. Burgmeier, A. Cakir, L. Calligaris, A. Campbell, S. Choudhury, F. Costanza, C. Diez Pardos, S. Dooling, T. Dorland, G. Eckerlin, D. Eckstein, T. Eichhorn, G. Flucke, J. Garay Garcia, A. Geiser, P. Gunnellini, J. Hauk, G. Hellwig, M. Hempel, D. Horton, H. Jung, A. Kalogeropoulos, M. Kasemann, P. Katsas, J. Kieseler, C. Kleinwort, D. Krücker, W. Lange, J. Leonard, K. Lipka, A. Lobanov, W. Lohmann¹⁵, B. Lutz, R. Mankel, I. Marfin, I.-A. Melzer-Pellmann, A.B. Meyer, J. Mnich, A. Mussgiller, S. Naumann-Emme, A. Nayak, O. Novgorodova, F. Nowak, E. Ntomari, H. Perrey, D. Pitzl, R. Placakyte, A. Raspereza, P.M. Ribeiro Cipriano, E. Ron, M.Ö. Sahin, J. Salfeld-Nebgen, P. Saxena, R. Schmidt¹⁵, T. Schoerner-Sadenius, M. Schröder, S. Spannagel, A.D.R. Vargas Trevino, R. Walsh, C. Wissing

Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

M. Aldaya Martin, V. Blobel, M. Centis Vignali, J. Erfle, E. Garutti, K. Goebel, M. Görner, J. Haller, M. Hoffmann, R.S. Höing, H. Kirschenmann, R. Klanner, R. Kogler, J. Lange, T. Lapsien, T. Lenz, I. Marchesini, J. Ott, T. Peiffer, N. Pietsch, D. Rathjens, C. Sander, H. Schettler, P. Schleper, E. Schlieckau, A. Schmidt, M. Seidel, J. Sibille¹⁶, V. Sola, H. Stadie, G. Steinbrück, D. Troendle, E. Usai, L. Vanelderen

University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

C. Barth, C. Baus, J. Berger, C. Böser, E. Butz, T. Chwalek, W. De Boer, A. Descroix, A. Dierlamm, M. Feindt, F. Frensch, M. Giffels, F. Hartmann², T. Hauth², U. Husemann, I. Katkov⁵, A. Kornmayer², E. Kuznetsova, P. Lobelle Pardo, M.U. Mozer, Th. Müller, A. Nürnberg, G. Quast, K. Rabbertz, F. Ratnikov, S. Röcker, H.J. Simonis, F.M. Stober, R. Ulrich, J. Wagner-Kuhr, S. Wayand, T. Weiler, R. Wolf

Institut für Experimentelle Kernphysik, Karlsruhe, Germany

G. Anagnostou, G. Daskalakis, T. Geralis, V.A. Giakoumopoulou, A. Kyriakis, D. Loukas, A. Markou, C. Markou, A. Psallidas, I. Topsis-Giotis

Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (INPP), NCSR Demokritos, Aghia Paraskevi, Greece

A. Panagiotou, N. Saoulidou, E. Stiliaris

University of Athens, Athens, Greece

X. Aslanoglou, I. Evangelou, G. Flouris, C. Foudas, P. Kokkas, N. Manthos, I. Papadopoulos, E. Paradas

University of Ioánnina, Ioánnina, Greece

G. Bencze, C. Hajdu, P. Hidas, D. Horvath¹⁷, F. Sikler, V. Veszpremi, G. Vesztergombi¹⁸, A.J. Zsigmond

Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary

N. Beni, S. Czellar, J. Karancsi¹⁹, J. Molnar, J. Palinkas, Z. Szillasi

Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary

P. Raics, Z.L. Trocsanyi, B. Ujvari

University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary

S.K. Swain

National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar, India

S.B. Beri, V. Bhatnagar, N. Dhingra, R. Gupta, U. Bhawandeep, A.K. Kalsi, M. Kaur, M. Mittal, N. Nishu, J.B. Singh

Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

Ashok Kumar, Arun Kumar, S. Ahuja, A. Bhardwaj, B.C. Choudhary, A. Kumar, S. Malhotra, M. Naimuddin, K. Ranjan, V. Sharma

University of Delhi, Delhi, India

S. Banerjee, S. Bhattacharya, K. Chatterjee, S. Dutta, B. Gomber, Sa. Jain, Sh. Jain, R. Khurana, A. Modak, S. Mukherjee, D. Roy, S. Sarkar, M. Sharan

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, India

A. Abdulsalam, D. Dutta, S. Kailas, V. Kumar, A.K. Mohanty², L.M. Pant, P. Shukla, A. Topkar

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, India

T. Aziz, S. Banerjee, S. Bhowmik²⁰, R.M. Chatterjee, R.K. Dewanjee, S. Dugad, S. Ganguly, S. Ghosh, M. Guchait, A. Gurtu²¹, G. Kole, S. Kumar, M. Maity²⁰, G. Majumder, K. Mazumdar, G.B. Mohanty, B. Parida, K. Sudhakar, N. Wickramage²²

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India

H. Bakhshiansohi, H. Behnamian, S.M. Etesami²³, A. Fahim²⁴, R. Goldouzian, A. Jafari, M. Khakzad, M. Mohammadi Najafabadi, M. Naseri, S. Paktinat Mehdiabadi, B. Safarzadeh²⁵, M. Zeinali

Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences (IPM), Tehran, Iran

M. Felcini, M. Grunewald

University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

M. Abbrescia^{a,b}, L. Barbone^{a,b}, C. Calabria^{a,b}, S.S. Chhibra^{a,b}, A. Colaleo^a, D. Creanza^{a,c}, N. De Filippis^{a,c}, M. De Palma^{a,b}, L. Fiore^a, G. Iaselli^{a,c}, G. Maggi^{a,c}, M. Maggi^a, S. My^{a,c}, S. Nuzzo^{a,b}, A. Pompili^{a,b}, G. Pugliese^{a,c}, R. Radogna^{a,b,2}, G. Selvaggi^{a,b}, L. Silvestris^{a,2}, G. Singh^{a,b}, R. Venditti^{a,b}, P. Verwilligen^a, G. Zito^a

^a INFN Sezione di Bari, Bari, Italy

^b Università di Bari, Bari, Italy

^c Politecnico di Bari, Bari, Italy

G. Abbiendi^a, A.C. Benvenuti^a, D. Bonacorsi^{a,b}, S. Braibant-Giacomelli^{a,b}, L. Brigliadori^{a,b}, R. Campanini^{a,b}, P. Capiluppi^{a,b}, A. Castro^{a,b}, F.R. Cavallo^a, G. Codispoti^{a,b}, M. Cuffiani^{a,b}, G.M. Dallavalle^a, F. Fabbri^a, A. Fanfani^{a,b}, D. Fasanella^{a,b}, P. Giacomelli^a, C. Grandi^a, L. Guiducci^{a,b}, S. Marcellini^a, G. Masetti^{a,2}, A. Montanari^a, F.L. Navarria^{a,b}, A. Perrotta^a, F. Primavera^{a,b}, A.M. Rossi^{a,b}, T. Rovelli^{a,b}, G.P. Siroli^{a,b}, N. Tosi^{a,b}, R. Travaglini^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

^b Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

S. Albergo^{a,b}, G. Cappello^a, M. Chiorboli^{a,b}, S. Costa^{a,b}, F. Giordano^{a,c,2}, R. Potenza^{a,b}, A. Tricomi^{a,b}, C. Tuve^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Catania, Catania, Italy

^b Università di Catania, Catania, Italy

^c CSFNSM, Catania, Italy

G. Barbagli^a, V. Ciulli^{a,b}, C. Civinini^a, R. D'Alessandro^{a,b}, E. Focardi^{a,b}, E. Gallo^a, S. Gonzi^{a,b}, V. Gori^{a,b,2}, P. Lenzi^{a,b}, M. Meschini^a, S. Paoletti^a, G. Sguazzoni^a, A. Tropiano^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

^b Università di Firenze, Firenze, Italy

L. Benussi, S. Bianco, F. Fabbri, D. Piccolo

INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy

F. Ferro^a, M. Lo Vetere^{a,b}, E. Robutti^a, S. Tosi^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Genova, Genova, Italy

^b Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

M.E. Dinardo^{a,b}, S. Fiorendi^{a,b,2}, S. Gennai^{a,2}, R. Gerosa², A. Ghezzi^{a,b}, P. Govoni^{a,b}, M.T. Lucchini^{a,b,2}, S. Malvezzi^a, R.A. Manzoni^{a,b}, A. Martelli^{a,b}, B. Marzocchi, D. Menasce^a, L. Moroni^a, M. Paganoni^{a,b}, D. Pedrini^a, S. Ragazzi^{a,b}, N. Redaelli^a, T. Tabarelli de Fatis^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Milano–Bicocca, Milano, Italy

^b Università di Milano–Bicocca, Milano, Italy

S. Buontempo^a, N. Cavallo^{a,c}, S. Di Guida^{a,d,2}, F. Fabozzi^{a,c}, A.O.M. Iorio^{a,b}, L. Lista^a, S. Meola^{a,d,2}, M. Merola^a, P. Paolucci^{a,2}

^a INFN Sezione di Napoli, Napoli, Italy

^b Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Napoli, Italy

^c Università della Basilicata (Potenza), Napoli, Italy

^d Università G. Marconi (Roma), Napoli, Italy

P. Azzi^a, M. Biasotto^{a,26}, D. Bisello^{a,b}, A. Branca^{a,b}, R. Carlin^{a,b}, P. Checchia^a, M. Dall'Osso^{a,b}, T. Dorigo^a, U. Dosselli^a, F. Fanzago^a, M. Galanti^{a,b}, F. Gasparini^{a,b}, U. Gasparini^{a,b}, A. Gozzelino^a, K. Kanishchev^{a,c}, S. Lacaprara^a, M. Margoni^{a,b}, A.T. Meneguzzo^{a,b}, J. Pazzini^{a,b}, N. Pozzobon^{a,b}, P. Ronchese^{a,b}, F. Simonetto^{a,b}, E. Torassa^a, M. Tosi^{a,b}, P. Zotto^{a,b}, A. Zucchetta^{a,b}, G. Zumerle^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Padova, Padova, Italy

^b Università di Padova, Padova, Italy

^c Università di Trento (Trento), Padova, Italy

M. Gabusi^{a,b}, S.P. Ratti^{a,b}, C. Riccardi^{a,b}, P. Salvini^a, P. Vitulo^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

^b Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy

M. Biasini^{a,b}, G.M. Bilei^a, D. Ciangottini^{a,b}, L. Fanò^{a,b}, P. Lariccia^{a,b}, G. Mantovani^{a,b}, M. Menichelli^a, F. Romeo^{a,b}, A. Saha^a, A. Santocchia^{a,b}, A. Spiezia^{a,b,2}

^a INFN Sezione di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

^b Università di Perugia, Perugia, Italy

K. Androsov^{a,27}, P. Azzurri^a, G. Bagliesi^a, J. Bernardini^a, T. Boccali^a, G. Broccolo^{a,c}, R. Castaldi^a, M.A. Ciocci^{a,27}, R. Dell'Orso^a, S. Donato^{a,c}, F. Fiori^{a,c}, L. Foà^{a,c}, A. Giassi^a, M.T. Grippo^{a,27}, F. Ligabue^{a,c}, T. Lomtadze^a, L. Martini^{a,b}, A. Messineo^{a,b}, C.S. Moon^{a,28}, F. Palla^{a,2}, A. Rizzi^{a,b}, A. Savoy-Navarro^{a,29}, A.T. Serban^a, P. Spagnolo^a, P. Squillacioti^{a,27}, R. Tenchini^a, G. Tonelli^{a,b}, A. Venturi^a, P.G. Verdini^a, C. Vernieri^{a,c,2}

^a INFN Sezione di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^b Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

^c Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

L. Barone^{a,b}, F. Cavallari^a, D. Del Re^{a,b}, M. Diemoz^a, M. Grassi^{a,b}, C. Jorda^a, E. Longo^{a,b}, F. Margaroli^{a,b}, P. Meridiani^a, F. Micheli^{a,b,2}, S. Nourbakhsh^{a,b}, G. Organtini^{a,b}, R. Paramatti^a, S. Rahatlou^{a,b}, C. Rovelli^a, F. Santanastasio^{a,b}, L. Soffi^{a,b,2}, P. Traczyk^{a,b}

^a INFN Sezione di Roma, Roma, Italy

^b Università di Roma, Roma, Italy

N. Amapane^{a,b}, R. Arcidiacono^{a,c}, S. Argiro^{a,b,2}, M. Arneodo^{a,c}, R. Bellan^{a,b}, C. Biino^a, N. Cartiglia^a, S. Casasso^{a,b,2}, M. Costa^{a,b}, A. Degano^{a,b}, N. Demaria^a, L. Finco^{a,b}, C. Mariotti^a, S. Maselli^a, E. Migliore^{a,b}, V. Monaco^{a,b}, M. Musich^a, M.M. Obertino^{a,c,2}, G. Ortona^{a,b}, L. Pacher^{a,b}, N. Pastrone^a, M. Pelliccioni^a, G.L. Pinna Angioni^{a,b}, A. Potenza^{a,b}, A. Romero^{a,b}, M. Ruspa^{a,c}, R. Sacchi^{a,b}, A. Solano^{a,b}, A. Staiano^a, U. Tamponi^a

^a INFN Sezione di Torino, Torino, Italy

^b Università di Torino, Torino, Italy

^c Università del Piemonte Orientale (Novara), Torino, Italy

S. Belforte ^a, V. Candelise ^{a,b}, M. Casarsa ^a, F. Cossutti ^a, G. Della Ricca ^{a,b}, B. Gobbo ^a, C. La Licata ^{a,b}, M. Marone ^{a,b}, D. Montanino ^{a,b}, A. Schizzi ^{a,b,2}, T. Umer ^{a,b}, A. Zanetti ^a

^a INFN Sezione di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

^b Università di Trieste, Trieste, Italy

S. Chang, A. Kropivnitskaya, S.K. Nam

Kangwon National University, Chunchon, Republic of Korea

D.H. Kim, G.N. Kim, M.S. Kim, D.J. Kong, S. Lee, Y.D. Oh, H. Park, A. Sakharov, D.C. Son

Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea

J.Y. Kim, S. Song

Chonnam National University, Institute for Universe and Elementary Particles, Kwangju, Republic of Korea

S. Choi, D. Gyun, B. Hong, M. Jo, H. Kim, Y. Kim, B. Lee, K.S. Lee, S.K. Park, Y. Roh

Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

M. Choi, J.H. Kim, I.C. Park, S. Park, G. Ryu, M.S. Ryu

University of Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Y. Choi, Y.K. Choi, J. Goh, E. Kwon, J. Lee, H. Seo, I. Yu

Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon, Republic of Korea

A. Juodagalvis

Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

J.R. Komaragiri

National Centre for Particle Physics, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

H. Castilla-Valdez, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, I. Heredia-de La Cruz ³⁰, R. Lopez-Fernandez, A. Sanchez-Hernandez

Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN, Mexico City, Mexico

S. Carrillo Moreno, F. Vazquez Valencia

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico

I. Pedraza, H.A. Salazar Ibarguen

Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla, Puebla, Mexico

E. Casimiro Linares, A. Morelos Pineda

Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí, Mexico

D. Krofcheck

University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

P.H. Butler, S. Reucroft

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

A. Ahmad, M. Ahmad, Q. Hassan, H.R. Hoorani, S. Khalid, W.A. Khan, T. Khurshid, M.A. Shah, M. Shoaib

National Centre for Physics, Quaid-I-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

H. Bialkowska, M. Bluj, B. Boimska, T. Frueboes, M. Górski, M. Kazana, K. Nawrocki, K. Romanowska-Rybinska, M. Szleper, P. Zalewski

National Centre for Nuclear Research, Swierk, Poland

G. Brona, K. Bunkowski, M. Cwiok, W. Dominik, K. Doroba, A. Kalinowski, M. Konecki, J. Krolikowski, M. Misiura, M. Olszewski, W. Wolszczak

Institute of Experimental Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland

P. Bargassa, C. Beirão Da Cruz E Silva, P. Faccioli, P.G. Ferreira Parracho, M. Gallinaro, F. Nguyen, J. Rodrigues Antunes, J. Seixas, J. Varela, P. Vischia

Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas, Lisboa, Portugal

M. Gavrilenko, I. Golutvin, I. Gorbunov, A. Kamenev, V. Karjavin, V. Konoplyanikov, A. Lanev, A. Malakhov, V. Matveev³¹, P. Moisezenz, V. Palichik, V. Perelygin, M. Savina, S. Shmatov, S. Shulha, N. Skatchkov, V. Smirnov, A. Zarubin

Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia

V. Golovtsov, Y. Ivanov, V. Kim³², P. Levchenko, V. Murzin, V. Oreshkin, I. Smirnov, V. Sulimov, L. Uvarov, S. Vavilov, A. Vorobyev, An. Vorobyev

Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina (St. Petersburg), Russia

Yu. Andreev, A. Dermenev, S. Gninenko, N. Golubev, M. Kirsanov, N. Krasnikov, A. Pashenkov, D. Tisov, A. Toropin

Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia

V. Epshteyn, V. Gavrilov, N. Lychkovskaya, V. Popov, G. Safronov, S. Semenov, A. Spiridonov, V. Stolin, E. Vlasov, A. Zhokin

Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia

V. Andreev, M. Azarkin, I. Dremin, M. Kirakosyan, A. Leonidov, G. Mesyats, S.V. Rusakov, A. Vinogradov

P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow, Russia

A. Belyaev, E. Boos, V. Bunichev, M. Dubinin⁷, L. Dudko, A. Ershov, A. Gribushin, V. Klyukhin, O. Kodolova, I. Lokhtin, S. Obraztsov, M. Perfilov, V. Savrin

Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia

I. Azhgirey, I. Bayshev, S. Bitioukov, V. Kachanov, A. Kalinin, D. Konstantinov, V. Krychkine, V. Petrov, R. Ryutin, A. Sobol, L. Tourtchanovitch, S. Troshin, N. Tyurin, A. Uzunian, A. Volkov

State Research Center of Russian Federation, Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia

P. Adzic³³, M. Dordevic, M. Ekmedzic, J. Milosevic

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

J. Alcaraz Maestre, C. Battilana, E. Calvo, M. Cerrada, M. Chamizo Llatas, N. Colino, B. De La Cruz, A. Delgado Peris, D. Domínguez Vázquez, A. Escalante Del Valle, C. Fernandez Bedoya, J.P. Fernández Ramos, J. Flix, M.C. Fouz, P. Garcia-Abia, O. Gonzalez Lopez, S. Goy Lopez, J.M. Hernandez, M.I. Josa, G. Merino, E. Navarro De Martino, A. Pérez-Calero Yzquierdo, J. Puerta Pelayo, A. Quintario Olmeda, I. Redondo, L. Romero, M.S. Soares

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT), Madrid, Spain

C. Albajar, J.F. de Trocóniz, M. Missiroli

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

H. Brun, J. Cuevas, J. Fernandez Menendez, S. Folgueras, I. Gonzalez Caballero, L. Lloret Iglesias

Universidad de Oviedo, Oviedo, Spain

J.A. Brochero Cifuentes, I.J. Cabrillo, A. Calderon, J. Duarte Campderros, M. Fernandez, G. Gomez, A. Graziano, A. Lopez Virto, J. Marco, R. Marco, C. Martinez Rivero, F. Matorras, F.J. Munoz Sanchez, J. Piedra Gomez, T. Rodrigo, A.Y. Rodríguez-Marrero, A. Ruiz-Jimeno, L. Scodellaro, I. Vila, R. Vilar Cortabitarte

Instituto de Física de Cantabria (IFCA), CSIC–Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain

D. Abbaneo, E. Auffray, G. Auzinger, M. Bachtis, P. Baillon, A.H. Ball, D. Barney, A. Benaglia, J. Bendavid, L. Benhabib, J.F. Benitez, C. Bernet⁸, G. Bianchi, P. Bloch, A. Bocci, A. Bonato, O. Bondu, C. Botta, H. Breuker, T. Camporesi, G. Cerminara, S. Colafranceschi³⁴, M. D'Alfonso, D. d'Enterria, A. Dabrowski, A. David, F. De Guio, A. De Roeck, S. De Visscher, M. Dobson, N. Dupont-Sagorin, A. Elliott-Peisert, J. Eugster, G. Franzoni, W. Funk, D. Gigi, K. Gill, D. Giordano, M. Girone, F. Glege, R. Guida, S. Gundacker, M. Guthoff, J. Hammer, M. Hansen, P. Harris, J. Hegeman, V. Innocente, P. Janot, K. Kousouris, K. Krajczar, P. Lecoq, C. Lourenço, N. Magini, L. Malgeri, M. Mannelli, J. Marrouche, L. Masetti, F. Meijers, S. Mersi, E. Meschi, F. Moortgat, S. Morovic, M. Mulders, P. Musella, L. Orsini, L. Pape, E. Perez, L. Perrozzì, A. Petrilli, G. Petrucciani, A. Pfeiffer, M. Pierini, M. Pimià, D. Piparo, M. Plagge, A. Racz, G. Rolandi³⁵, M. Rovere, H. Sakulin, C. Schäfer, C. Schwick, S. Sekmen, A. Sharma, P. Siegrist, P. Silva, M. Simon, P. Sphicas³⁶, D. Spiga, J. Steggemann, B. Stieger, M. Stoye, D. Treille, A. Tsirou, G.I. Veres¹⁸, J.R. Vlimant, N. Wardle, H.K. Wöhri, H. Wollny, W.D. Zeuner

CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland

W. Bertl, K. Deiters, W. Erdmann, R. Horisberger, Q. Ingram, H.C. Kaestli, S. König, D. Kotlinski, U. Langenegger, D. Renker, T. Rohe

Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland

F. Bachmair, L. Bäni, L. Bianchini, P. Bortignon, M.A. Buchmann, B. Casal, N. Chanon, A. Deisher, G. Dissertori, M. Dittmar, M. Donegà, M. Dünser, P. Eller, C. Grab, D. Hits, W. Lustermann, B. Mangano, A.C. Marini, P. Martinez Ruiz del Arbol, D. Meister, N. Mohr, C. Nägeli³⁷, F. Nessi-Tedaldi, F. Pandolfi, F. Pauss, M. Peruzzi, M. Quittnat, L. Rebane, M. Rossini, A. Starodumov³⁸, M. Takahashi, K. Theofilatos, R. Wallny, H.A. Weber

Institute for Particle Physics, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

C. Amsler³⁹, M.F. Canelli, V. Chiochia, A. De Cosa, A. Hinzmann, T. Hreus, B. Kilminster, B. Millan Mejias, J. Ngadiuba, P. Robmann, F.J. Ronga, H. Snoek, S. Taroni, M. Verzetti, Y. Yang

Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

M. Cardaci, K.H. Chen, C. Ferro, C.M. Kuo, W. Lin, Y.J. Lu, R. Volpe, S.S. Yu

National Central University, Chung-Li, Taiwan

P. Chang, Y.H. Chang, Y.W. Chang, Y. Chao, K.F. Chen, P.H. Chen, C. Dietz, U. Grundler, W.-S. Hou, K.Y. Kao, Y.J. Lei, Y.F. Liu, R.-S. Lu, D. Majumder, E. Petrakou, Y.M. Tzeng, R. Wilken

National Taiwan University (NTU), Taipei, Taiwan

B. Asavapibhop, N. Srimanobhas, N. Suwonjandee

Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Bangkok, Thailand

A. Adiguzel, M.N. Bakirci⁴⁰, S. Cerci⁴¹, C. Dozen, I. Dumanoglu, E. Eskut, S. Girgis, G. Gokbulut, E. Gurpinar, I. Hos, E.E. Kangal, A. Kayis Topaksu, G. Onengut⁴², K. Ozdemir, S. Ozturk⁴⁰, A. Polatoz, K. Sogut⁴³, D. Sunar Cerci⁴¹, B. Tali⁴¹, H. Topakli⁴⁰, M. Vergili

Cukurova University, Adana, Turkey

I.V. Akin, B. Bilin, S. Bilmis, H. Gamsizkan, G. Karapinar⁴⁴, K. Ocalan, U.E. Surat, M. Yalvac, M. Zeyrek

Middle East Technical University, Physics Department, Ankara, Turkey

E. Gülmez, B. Isildak⁴⁵, M. Kaya⁴⁶, O. Kaya⁴⁶

Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey

H. Bahtiyar⁴⁷, E. Barlas, K. Cankocak, F.I. Vardarli, M. Yücel

Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey

L. Levchuk, P. Sorokin

National Scientific Center, Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, Kharkov, Ukraine

J.J. Brooke, E. Clement, D. Cussans, H. Flacher, R. Frazier, J. Goldstein, M. Grimes, G.P. Heath, H.F. Heath, J. Jacob, L. Kreczko, C. Lucas, Z. Meng, D.M. Newbold⁴⁸, S. Paramesvaran, A. Poll, S. Senkin, V.J. Smith, T. Williams

University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

K.W. Bell, A. Belyaev⁴⁹, C. Brew, R.M. Brown, D.J.A. Cockerill, J.A. Coughlan, K. Harder, S. Harper, E. Olaiya, D. Petyt, C.H. Shepherd-Themistocleous, A. Thea, I.R. Tomalin, W.J. Womersley, S.D. Worm

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom

M. Baber, R. Bainbridge, O. Buchmuller, D. Burton, D. Colling, N. Cripps, M. Cutajar, P. Dauncey, G. Davies, M. Della Negra, P. Dunne, W. Ferguson, J. Fulcher, D. Futyan, A. Gilbert, G. Hall, G. Iles, M. Jarvis, G. Karapostoli, M. Kenzie, R. Lane, R. Lucas⁴⁸, L. Lyons, A.-M. Magnan, S. Malik, B. Mathias, J. Nash, A. Nikitenko³⁸, J. Pela, M. Pesaresi, K. Petridis, D.M. Raymond, S. Rogerson, A. Rose, C. Seez, P. Sharp[†], A. Tapper, M. Vazquez Acosta, T. Virdee

Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

J.E. Cole, P.R. Hobson, A. Khan, P. Kyberd, D. Leggat, D. Leslie, W. Martin, I.D. Reid, P. Symonds, L. Teodorescu, M. Turner

Brunel University, Uxbridge, United Kingdom

J. Dittmann, K. Hatakeyama, A. Kasmi, H. Liu, T. Scarborough

Baylor University, Waco, USA

O. Charaf, S.I. Cooper, C. Henderson, P. Rumerio

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, USA

A. Avetisyan, T. Bose, C. Fantasia, A. Heister, P. Lawson, C. Richardson, J. Rohlf, D. Sperka, J. St. John, L. Sulak

Boston University, Boston, USA

J. Alimena, E. Berry, S. Bhattacharya, G. Christopher, D. Cutts, Z. Demiragli, A. Ferapontov, A. Garabedian, U. Heintz, S. Jabeen, G. Kukartsev, E. Laird, G. Landsberg, M. Luk, M. Narain, M. Segala, T. Sinthuprasith, T. Speer, J. Swanson

Brown University, Providence, USA

R. Breedon, G. Breto, M. Calderon De La Barca Sanchez, S. Chauhan, M. Chertok, J. Conway, R. Conway, P.T. Cox, R. Erbacher, M. Gardner, W. Ko, R. Lander, T. Miceli, M. Mulhearn, D. Pellett, J. Pilot, F. Ricci-Tam, M. Searle, S. Shalhout, J. Smith, M. Squires, D. Stolp, M. Tripathi, S. Wilbur, R. Yohay

University of California, Davis, Davis, USA

R. Cousins, P. Everaerts, C. Farrell, J. Hauser, M. Ignatenko, G. Rakness, E. Takasugi, V. Valuev, M. Weber

University of California, Los Angeles, USA

J. Babb, K. Burt, R. Clare, J. Ellison, J.W. Gary, G. Hanson, J. Heilman, M. Ivova Rikova, P. Jandir, E. Kennedy, F. Lacroix, H. Liu, O.R. Long, A. Luthra, M. Malberti, H. Nguyen, A. Shrinivas, S. Sumowidagdo, S. Wimpenny

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, USA

W. Andrews, J.G. Branson, G.B. Cerati, S. Cittolin, R.T. D'Agnolo, D. Evans, A. Holzner, R. Kelley, D. Klein, M. Lebourgeois, J. Letts, I. Macneill, D. Olivito, S. Padhi, C. Palmer, M. Pieri, M. Sani, V. Sharma, S. Simon, E. Sudano, M. Tadel, Y. Tu, A. Vartak, C. Welke, F. Würthwein, A. Yagil, J. Yoo

University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, USA

D. Barge, J. Bradmiller-Feld, C. Campagnari, T. Danielson, A. Dishaw, K. Flowers, M. Franco Sevilla, P. Geffert, C. George, F. Golf, L. Gouskos, J. Incandela, C. Justus, N. Mccoll, J. Richman, D. Stuart, W. To, C. West

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, USA

A. Apresyan, A. Bornheim, J. Bunn, Y. Chen, E. Di Marco, J. Duarte, A. Mott, H.B. Newman, C. Pena, C. Rogan, M. Spiropulu, V. Timciuc, R. Wilkinson, S. Xie, R.Y. Zhu

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA

V. Azzolini, A. Calamba, T. Ferguson, Y. Iiyama, M. Paulini, J. Russ, H. Vogel, I. Vorobiev

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA

J.P. Cumalat, B.R. Drell, W.T. Ford, A. Gaz, E. Luiggi Lopez, U. Nauenberg, J.G. Smith, K. Stenson, K.A. Ulmer, S.R. Wagner

University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, USA

J. Alexander, A. Chatterjee, J. Chu, S. Dittmer, N. Eggert, N. Mirman, G. Nicolas Kaufman, J.R. Patterson, A. Ryd, E. Salvati, L. Skinnari, W. Sun, W.D. Teo, J. Thom, J. Thompson, J. Tucker, Y. Weng, L. Winstrom, P. Wittich

Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

D. Winn

Fairfield University, Fairfield, USA

S. Abdullin, M. Albrow, J. Anderson, G. Apollinari, L.A.T. Bauerdick, A. Beretvas, J. Berryhill, P.C. Bhat, K. Burkett, J.N. Butler, H.W.K. Cheung, F. Chlebana, S. Cihangir, V.D. Elvira, I. Fisk, J. Freeman, Y. Gao, E. Gottschalk, L. Gray, D. Green, S. Grünendahl, O. Gutsche, J. Hanlon, D. Hare, R.M. Harris, J. Hirschauer, B. Hooberman, S. Jindariani, M. Johnson, U. Joshi, K. Kaadze, B. Klima, B. Kreis, S. Kwan, J. Linacre, D. Lincoln, R. Lipton, T. Liu, J. Lykken, K. Maeshima, J.M. Marraffino, V.I. Martinez Outschoorn, S. Maruyama, D. Mason, P. McBride, K. Mishra, S. Mrenna, Y. Musienko³¹, S. Nahn, C. Newman-Holmes, V. O'Dell, O. Prokofyev, E. Sexton-Kennedy, S. Sharma, A. Soha, W.J. Spalding, L. Spiegel, L. Taylor, S. Tkaczyk, N.V. Tran, L. Uplegger, E.W. Vaandering, R. Vidal, A. Whitbeck, J. Whitmore, F. Yang

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, USA

D. Acosta, P. Avery, D. Bourilkov, M. Carver, T. Cheng, D. Curry, S. Das, M. De Gruttola, G.P. Di Giovanni, R.D. Field, M. Fisher, I.K. Furic, J. Hugon, J. Konigsberg, A. Korytov, T. Kypreos, J.F. Low, K. Matchev, P. Milenovic⁵⁰, G. Mitselmakher, L. Muniz, A. Rinkevicius, L. Shchutska, N. Skhirtladze, M. Snowball, J. Yelton, M. Zakaria

University of Florida, Gainesville, USA

S. Hewamanage, S. Linn, P. Markowitz, G. Martinez, J.L. Rodriguez

Florida International University, Miami, USA

T. Adams, A. Askew, J. Bochenek, B. Diamond, J. Haas, S. Hagopian, V. Hagopian, K.F. Johnson, H. Prosper, V. Veeraraghavan, M. Weinberg

Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

M.M. Baarmand, M. Hohlmann, H. Kalakhety, F. Yumiceva

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, USA

M.R. Adams, L. Apanasevich, V.E. Bazterra, D. Berry, R.R. Betts, I. Bucinskaite, R. Cavanaugh, O. Evdokimov, L. Gauthier, C.E. Gerber, D.J. Hofman, S. Khalatyan, P. Kurt, D.H. Moon, C. O'Brien, C. Silkworth, P. Turner, N. Varelas

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Chicago, USA

E.A. Albayrak⁴⁷, B. Bilki⁵¹, W. Clarida, K. Dilsiz, F. Duru, M. Haytmyradov, J.-P. Merlo, H. Mermerkaya⁵², A. Mestvirishvili, A. Moeller, J. Nachtman, H. Ogul, Y. Onel, F. Ozok⁴⁷, A. Penzo, R. Rahmat, S. Sen, P. Tan, E. Tiras, J. Wetzel, T. Yetkin⁵³, K. Yi

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, USA

B.A. Barnett, B. Blumenfeld, S. Bolognesi, D. Fehling, A.V. Gritsan, P. Maksimovic, C. Martin, M. Swartz

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

P. Baringer, A. Bean, G. Benelli, C. Bruner, J. Gray, R.P. Kenny III, M. Malek, M. Murray, D. Noonan, S. Sanders, J. Sekaric, R. Stringer, Q. Wang, J.S. Wood

The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA

A.F. Barfuss, I. Chakaberia, A. Ivanov, S. Khalil, M. Makouski, Y. Maravin, L.K. Saini, S. Shrestha, I. Svintradze

Kansas State University, Manhattan, USA

J. Gronberg, D. Lange, F. Rebassoo, D. Wright

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, USA

A. Baden, A. Belloni, B. Calvert, S.C. Eno, J.A. Gomez, N.J. Hadley, R.G. Kellogg, T. Kolberg, Y. Lu, M. Marionneau, A.C. Mignerey, K. Pedro, A. Skuja, M.B. Tonjes, S.C. Tonwar

University of Maryland, College Park, USA

A. Apyan, R. Barbieri, G. Bauer, W. Busza, I.A. Cali, M. Chan, L. Di Matteo, V. Dutta, G. Gomez Ceballos, M. Goncharov, D. Gulhan, M. Klute, Y.S. Lai, Y.-J. Lee, A. Levin, P.D. Luckey, T. Ma, C. Paus, D. Ralph, C. Roland, G. Roland, G.S.F. Stephans, F. Stöckli, K. Sumorok, D. Velicanu, J. Veverka, B. Wyslouch, M. Yang, M. Zanetti, V. Zhukova

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA

B. Dahmes, A. Gude, S.C. Kao, K. Klapoetke, Y. Kubota, J. Mans, N. Pastika, R. Rusack, A. Singovsky, N. Tambe, J. Turkewitz

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

J.G. Acosta, S. Oliveros

University of Mississippi, Oxford, USA

E. Avdeeva, K. Bloom, S. Bose, D.R. Claes, A. Dominguez, R. Gonzalez Suarez, J. Keller, D. Knowlton, I. Kravchenko, J. Lazo-Flores, S. Malik, F. Meier, G.R. Snow

University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, USA

J. Dolen, A. Godshalk, I. Iashvili, A. Kharchilava, A. Kumar, S. Rappoccio

State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA

G. Alverson, E. Barberis, D. Baumgartel, M. Chasco, J. Haley, A. Massironi, D.M. Morse, D. Nash, T. Orimoto, D. Trocino, R.J. Wang, D. Wood, J. Zhang

Northeastern University, Boston, USA

K.A. Hahn, A. Kubik, N. Mucia, N. Odell, B. Pollack, A. Pozdnyakov, M. Schmitt, S. Stoynev, K. Sung, M. Velasco, S. Won

Northwestern University, Evanston, USA

A. Brinkerhoff, K.M. Chan, A. Drozdetskiy, M. Hildreth, C. Jessop, D.J. Karmgard, N. Kellams, K. Lannon, W. Luo, S. Lynch, N. Marinelli, T. Pearson, M. Planer, R. Ruchti, N. Valls, M. Wayne, M. Wolf, A. Woodard

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, USA

L. Antonelli, J. Brinson, B. Bylsma, L.S. Durkin, S. Flowers, C. Hill, R. Hughes, K. Kotov, T.Y. Ling, D. Puigh, M. Rodenburg, G. Smith, C. Vuosalo, B.L. Winer, H. Wolfe, H.W. Wulsin

The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

O. Driga, P. Elmer, P. Hebda, A. Hunt, S.A. Koay, P. Lujan, D. Marlow, T. Medvedeva, M. Mooney, J. Olsen, P. Piroué, X. Quan, H. Saka, D. Stickland², C. Tully, J.S. Werner, S.C. Zenz, A. Zuranski

Princeton University, Princeton, USA

E. Brownson, H. Mendez, J.E. Ramirez Vargas

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, USA

E. Alagoz, V.E. Barnes, D. Benedetti, G. Bolla, D. Bortoletto, M. De Mattia, Z. Hu, M.K. Jha, M. Jones, K. Jung, M. Kress, N. Leonardo, D. Lopes Pegna, V. Maroussov, P. Merkel, D.H. Miller, N. Neumeister, B.C. Radburn-Smith, X. Shi, I. Shipsey, D. Silvers, A. Svyatkovskiy, F. Wang, W. Xie, L. Xu, H.D. Yoo, J. Zablocki, Y. Zheng

Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA

N. Parashar, J. Stupak

Purdue University Calumet, Hammond, USA

A. Adair, B. Akgun, K.M. Ecklund, F.J.M. Geurts, W. Li, B. Michlin, B.P. Padley, R. Redjimi, J. Roberts, J. Zabel

Rice University, Houston, USA

B. Betchart, A. Bodek, R. Covarelli, P. de Barbaro, R. Demina, Y. Eshaq, T. Ferbel, A. Garcia-Bellido, P. Goldenzweig, J. Han, A. Harel, A. Khukhunaishvili, D.C. Miner, G. Petrillo, D. Vishnevskiy

University of Rochester, Rochester, USA

R. Ciesielski, L. Demortier, K. Goulianos, G. Lungu, C. Mesropian

The Rockefeller University, New York, USA

S. Arora, A. Barker, J.P. Chou, C. Contreras-Campana, E. Contreras-Campana, D. Duggan, D. Ferencek, Y. Gershtein, R. Gray, E. Halkiadakis, D. Hidas, A. Lath, S. Panwalkar, M. Park, R. Patel, V. Rekovic, S. Salur, S. Schnetzer, C. Seitz, S. Somalwar, R. Stone, S. Thomas, P. Thomassen, M. Walker

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, USA

K. Rose, S. Spanier, A. York

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

O. Bouhali⁵⁴, R. Eusebi, W. Flanagan, J. Gilmore, T. Kamon⁵⁵, V. Khotilovich, V. Krutelyov, R. Montalvo, I. Osipenkov, Y. Pakhotin, A. Perloff, J. Roe, A. Rose, A. Safonov, T. Sakuma, I. Suarez, A. Tatarinov

Texas A&M University, College Station, USA

N. Akchurin, C. Cowden, J. Damgov, C. Dragoiu, P.R. Duderov, J. Faulkner, K. Kovitanggoon, S. Kunori, S.W. Lee, T. Libeiro, I. Volobouev

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, USA

E. Appelt, A.G. Delannoy, S. Greene, A. Gurrola, W. Johns, C. Maguire, Y. Mao, A. Melo, M. Sharma, P. Sheldon, B. Snook, S. Tuo, J. Velkovska

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

M.W. Arenton, S. Boutle, B. Cox, B. Francis, J. Goodell, R. Hirosky, A. Ledovskoy, H. Li, C. Lin, C. Neu, J. Wood

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

R. Harr, P.E. Karchin, C. Kottachchi Kankanamge Don, P. Lamichhane, J. Sturdy

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

D.A. Belknap, D. Carlsmith, M. Cepeda, S. Dasu, S. Duric, E. Friis, R. Hall-Wilton, M. Herndon, A. Hervé, P. Klabbers, A. Lanaro, C. Lazaridis, A. Levine, R. Loveless, A. Mohapatra, I. Ojalvo, T. Perry, G.A. Pierro, G. Polese, I. Ross, T. Sarangi, A. Savin, W.H. Smith, N. Woods

University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA

[†] Deceased.

¹ Also at Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.

² Also at CERN, European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland.

³ Also at Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Université de Strasbourg, Université de Haute Alsace Mulhouse, CNRS/IN2P3, Strasbourg, France.

⁴ Also at National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, Tallinn, Estonia.

⁵ Also at Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia.

⁶ Also at Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Campinas, Brazil.

⁷ Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA.

⁸ Also at Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, Ecole Polytechnique, IN2P3–CNRS, Palaiseau, France.

⁹ Also at Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia.

¹⁰ Also at Suez University, Suez, Egypt.

¹¹ Also at British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt.

¹² Also at Fayoum University, El-Fayoum, Egypt.

¹³ Now at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.

¹⁴ Also at Université de Haute Alsace, Mulhouse, France.

¹⁵ Also at Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany.

¹⁶ Also at The University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA.

¹⁷ Also at Institute of Nuclear Research ATOMKI, Debrecen, Hungary.

¹⁸ Also at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

¹⁹ Also at University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary.

²⁰ Also at University of Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, India.

²¹ Now at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

²² Also at University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka.

²³ Also at Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan, Iran.

²⁴ Also at Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran.

²⁵ Also at Plasma Physics Research Center, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

- ²⁶ Also at Laboratori Nazionali di Legnaro dell'INFN, Legnaro, Italy.
- ²⁷ Also at Università degli Studi di Siena, Siena, Italy.
- ²⁸ Also at Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) – IN2P3, Paris, France.
- ²⁹ Also at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA.
- ³⁰ Also at Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo, Morelia, Mexico.
- ³¹ Also at Institute for Nuclear Research, Moscow, Russia.
- ³² Also at St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, St. Petersburg, Russia.
- ³³ Also at Faculty of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia.
- ³⁴ Also at Facoltà Ingegneria, Università di Roma, Roma, Italy.
- ³⁵ Also at Scuola Normale e Sezione dell'INFN, Pisa, Italy.
- ³⁶ Also at University of Athens, Athens, Greece.
- ³⁷ Also at Paul Scherrer Institut, Villigen, Switzerland.
- ³⁸ Also at Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics, Moscow, Russia.
- ³⁹ Also at Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Bern, Switzerland.
- ⁴⁰ Also at Gaziosmanpasa University, Tokat, Turkey.
- ⁴¹ Also at Adiyaman University, Adiyaman, Turkey.
- ⁴² Also at Cag University, Mersin, Turkey.
- ⁴³ Also at Mersin University, Mersin, Turkey.
- ⁴⁴ Also at Izmir Institute of Technology, Izmir, Turkey.
- ⁴⁵ Also at Ozyegin University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁴⁶ Also at Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey.
- ⁴⁷ Also at Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁴⁸ Also at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom.
- ⁴⁹ Also at School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom.
- ⁵⁰ Also at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Physics and Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia.
- ⁵¹ Also at Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, USA.
- ⁵² Also at Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey.
- ⁵³ Also at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- ⁵⁴ Also at Texas A&M University at Qatar, Doha, Qatar.
- ⁵⁵ Also at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Republic of Korea.